



## NEWS RELEASE

Joseph E. Kernan, Governor  
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### ***Three south central Indiana companies enroll in Indiana@Work***

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. – Three companies in south central Indiana are benefiting from Indiana@Work thanks to a \$30,670 commitment by the Indiana Department of Workforce Development, announced Gov. Joe Kernan today.

Jennings County's **Metaldyne**, Bartholomew County's **NTN Driveshaft Inc.** and Jackson County's **Opti-Med CR Labs Inc.** will assess a combined total of 450 new and existing workers and profile 11 jobs with \$30,670 from Indiana@Work, the state's latest workforce development program.

"Through their participation in the Indiana@Work program, these three companies show they understand the value of investing in their workforce in order to strengthen their position within their respective industries," Kernan said. "We are happy to partner with Metaldyne, NTN Driveshaft and Opti-Med Labs as they determine the training needs for their existing and new employees and prepare for future growth."

Jennings County's **Metaldyne** was one of the first companies to enroll in Indiana@Work. With \$3,712 in Indiana@Work funds, Metaldyne profiled its industrial maintenance machining position at its North Vernon production facility. With this job profile, the company will be able to assess up to 70 people as it looks toward filling future job openings. Headquartered in Plymouth, Mich., Metaldyne is a leading global designer and supplier of metal-based components, assemblies and modules for transportation-related powertrain and chassis applications, including engine, transmission/transfer case, wheel-end and suspension, axle and driveline, and noise and vibration control products for the motor vehicle industry. The company services the automotive segment through its chassis, driveline and engine groups. The North Vernon facility currently employs 170 people.

"We are very excited to participate in the Indiana@Work Program," said Mark Echard, Human Resources manager at Metaldyne's North Vernon, Ind., location. "Although the program is still in its infancy in our facility, we expect the workforce assessments to be a valuable tool for improving our team."

In anticipation of completing its recent expansion, **NTN Driveshaft Inc.** (NDI), located in Bartholomew County, utilized \$18,378 from Indiana@Work to objectively evaluate applicants to fill its newly created positions. The company requested that its shaft/grinding/turning operator, material handler, heat treat operator, maintenance technician, assembly operator and forge operator positions be profiled. NDI was then able to assess the skills of 330 applicants against the profiles to fill 110 positions. Currently employing 754 people at its Columbus location, NDI produces constant velocity joints for the automotive industry.

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"NTN Driveshaft is thrilled to be one of the first companies in the area to use WorkKeys as an assessment tool," said Don Dial, the company's human resources representative. "With our current and projected growth, we believe that WorkKeys will be critical to us as we continue to expand in the future."

Indiana@Work also has committed \$8,580 to **Opti-Med CR Labs Inc.**, a life-sciences firm located in Jackson County. As a result, the company will assess the skills of its existing workforce in Seymour. Opti-Med Labs also will be able to profile its manufacturing, packaging, operator and assembly positions as it prepares for future growth. Established in 1996 as a form/fill/seal blister packaging operation, Opti-Med Labs is an FDA-approved facility that is capable of contract product development of oral solids, contract tablet and capsule manufacturing, bottling, pouching and blister packaging.

Jerry Mincy, the president of Opti-Med CR Labs stated, "WorkKeys seems to be an excellent way of determining the skills of our present work force and identifying those skills we need for the future."

Indiana@Work, a joint effort between the Indiana Department of Workforce Development (DWD) and the Indiana Department of Commerce, builds around Energize Indiana's four targeted sectors: advanced manufacturing, information technology, life sciences and high-tech distribution. Available through the state's WorkOne and WorkOne Express Centers, Indiana@Work has made skills assessments available to nearly 20,000 Hoosiers and companies statewide have requested more than 400 job profiles since its inception in January.

WorkKeys®, the centerpiece of Indiana@Work, is a comprehensive system developed by ACT® that determines and categorizes the skills necessary for a specific job. It also matches the individual's skill level to particular job requirements and serves as a foundation for training programs that close skill gaps and develop a more capable workforce.

Job profiling, the employer segment of WorkKeys®, helps businesses identify the skills and skill levels needed for workers to be successful on the job. Professional job analysts work with experienced employees to define the duties of each occupation and together, they create specific job profiles.

Through its various programs and initiatives, DWD is charged with continually improving the Hoosier workforce by assisting companies to create new jobs and improve employee skills. The agency offers a variety of training and educational grants, partners with the state's 27 WorkOne Centers, administers the unemployment insurance system, provides labor market information, assists employers with preparing workers for layoffs and closures, and operates the a statewide job placement service

For more information on this or other DWD programs, call 888-465-4616 or visit the web site at [www.workforce.IN.gov](http://www.workforce.IN.gov).

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